

REMARKS**Claims 1-14**

The Office has indicated that claims 1-14 are allowed, at paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Applicant thanks the Examiner for these allowed claims.

Claims 16-17, 20-21 are Allowable

The Office has objected to claims 16, 17, 20 and 21, at paragraph 7 of the Office Action, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant has amended claim 16 to include the elements of base claim 15, and is therefore allowable. Claim 17 depends from claim 16, which Applicant has amended to be allowable. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 16.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to include the elements of base claim 19, and therefore claim 20 is allowable. Claim 21 depends from claim 20, which Applicant has amended to be allowable. Therefore claim 21 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 20.

In light of the amendments presented, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Claims 15, 18-19, and 22

The Office has rejected claims 15, 18-19, and 22, at paragraph 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,907,228 ("Lohtia"). The Office has rejected claims 15, 18-19, 22, at paragraph 5 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,301,188 ("Kotzin"). Applicant has canceled claims 15, 18-19, and 22. Hence, the rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

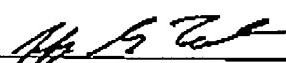
Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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